



JSC readies for Core Financial “go live”

With October’s Core Financial “go live” at Marshall Space Flight Center and Glenn Research Center, NASA has fulfilled its longstanding goal of implementing a state-of-the-art financial application. Here at Johnson Space Center, some 60 Core Financial team members have been working diligently for the last several months to ensure our own successful implementation in February 2003. Once JSC goes live on the software, there will be more than 1,000 Core Financial end-users.

“I have been really impressed with the way organizations from around the Center have collaborated to help make this a success. The project team could not do it without everyone pitching in,” said Randy Gish, JSC Procurement Director.

The Core Financial module is the “backbone” of the Integrated Financial Management Program (IFMP) – an Agency-wide effort to redesign and modernize NASA’s financial and administrative systems and processes. It will improve NASA’s fiscal accountability by delivering more reliable and accurate management information – critical if NASA is to achieve its strategic goals and retain its position as one of the country’s most forward-thinking federal agencies.

Core Financial is larger and more complex than any of the IFMP modules to date. It provides timely, consistent and reliable information for management decisions and creates an accounting and budgeting structure to support full-cost management. It facilitates improved information exchange and serves as the technical foundation for NASA’s e-Commerce and e-Government initiatives.

“This has been an enormous task for the team here at JSC – no other administrative activity has had the scope and impact of Core Financial. It feels good to finally see the fruits of our labors,” said John Beall, JSC Chief Financial Officer. “Center management and the JSC Steering Committee have made this a priority. They have supported us every step of the way with the necessary resources and by communicating the importance of this project.”

GETTING READY FOR CORE FINANCIAL

As JSC approaches the February 2003 “go live” date, many employees have been receiving communications about how to prepare for the new systems, processes and roles that Core Financial brings. Below is a summary of the Center’s Core Financial Training, which is based on standard SAP (the software behind Core Financial) roles. Those 1,000-plus employees who will be Core Financial users are being directed to training based on roles to which they have been “mapped” by their managers.

- ◆ SAP Navigation gives end-users a basic understanding of SAP 4.6 navigational skills prior to the instructor-led training. This course, available since October, must be completed before taking the instructor-led or Web-based training.
- ◆ Instructor-led training emphasizes interactive discussions, hands-on practice and exercises. Available Nov. 18, 2002, through Feb. 14, 2003.
- ◆ Web-based training is designed with multiple modules to allow an end-user to direct his/her own learning. Available Nov. 18, 2002, via NASA’s intranet.
- ◆ The Online Quick Reference tool provides end-users with procedures, job aids and other necessary help content via the Internet. Available Nov. 18, 2002.

Questions about JSC’s Core Financial Training should be directed to Brad Mudgett at x38428 or Katherine Bishop at x38732.

BUDGET FORMULATION

The next IFMP implementation effort at JSC is Budget Formulation – another significant module that encompasses bottoms-up formulation of institutional, program, enterprise and Agency-level budget formulation requirements. When Phase One of the Budget Formulation Project goes live in July 2003, it will support budget development, advocacy, internal/external reporting and full cost budgeting and management. In addition, the module will transmit budget information to the Core Financial system to establish full cost accounting controls. The content, form and accessibility of budget information will support real-time management decisions.

Budget Formulation will facilitate:

- ◆ Service pool planning
- ◆ Workforce planning
- ◆ Center Program Operating Plan submissions and phasing plans
- ◆ NASA budget aggregation
- ◆ NASA budget submission and pass back process with OMB and Congress

CHANGING THE WAY NASA DOES BUSINESS

IFMP is more than just a change in information technology – IFMP is also a change in the way we understand our business, organizations and roles. In implementing IFMP, we will re-evaluate our business and develop ways to take advantage of new capabilities. The IFMP Office is currently working with Centers and Enterprises to help them understand the benefits of IFMP to their current operations – thus helping the Agency achieve its goals as set forth in its strategic plan and in the President’s Management Agenda.

For more information on IFMP here at JSC, visit the following Web site:

<http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/org/la/cfo/ifmp/>